













## LOWELL INSTITUTE.

MR. WHIPPLE'S RIGHT LECTURES.

Miscellaneous Writers and Poets.

In the present lecture will be noticed some of the most eminent contemporaries and successors of the poet. Among the minor poets of this era were two imitators of Spenser: Phineas and Giles Fletcher, cousin of Fletcher, the dramatist. Phineas produced a poem of twelve cantos, called the *Purple Island*, an allegorical description of the body and soul of man, melodious in expression, occasionally felicitous in the personification of abstract qualities; but on the whole to be considered as an exercise of boundless ingenuity to produce unmeaning tediousness. Giles, the brother of Phineas, was the more potent spirit of the two, but his power is often directed by a taste even more elaborately bad. His poem of *Christ's Victory and Triumph*, in part almost sublime, in parts almost puerile, is a proof that imaginative fertility may exist in a mind without any imaginative grasp. Samuel Daniel, another poet of this period, was a naive man, born in 1562. His character was amiable, his genius gentle and meditative, rather than energetic, and he appears to have had that combination of qualities which makes men permanently famous. He was patronized by Elizabeth and James, and was highly esteemed by the most accomplished women of his time. He was distinguished for the purity, simplicity, and elegance of his diction. The best expressions of his pen are tender, and thoughtful nature are his epistles and his sonnets. The epistle to the Countess of Cumberland is a model for all salutary addresses to women. The sonnets, first published in 1602, record the strength and disappointment of youthful passion. The lady whom he addresses under the name of Della, refused him, it is said, for a wealthier lover, and the point of this belated affection made him wretched for years. The richest and most elaborately fanciful of these sonnets is that in which he calls upon his mistress to give back her perfections to the objects from which she derived them. At the age of forty he was married to a sister of John Florio, to whom his own sister, the Rosalind who jilted Spenser, is supposed to have been previously united. He died in 1619, in his fifty-eighth year. A more powerful and prolific poet than Daniel, was Michael Drayton, who rhymed steadily for forty years, and produced nearly a hundred thousand lines. He was the son of a butcher, and was born about the year 1563. Like Daniel, he enjoyed the friendship and patronage of noble avocates of learning and genius. He was a man of irreproachable character, but the market value of his poetry and virtue was small, and he seems always to have been on bad terms with the bookkeepers. The defect of his mind was not the lack of materials, but the lack of imagination to select and fuse his materials. His poem of the *Barnes Wars* is a metrical chronicle; his *Polydore* is an enormous piece of metrical topography, extending to 30,000 twelve-syllable lines. In neither poem does he view his subject from an elevated point, but doggedly follows the course of events and the succession of objects. Drayton appears to more advantage in his minor poems, where his subjects are less unwieldy, and where the vivacity of his fancy makes us forget his lack of high imagination. His fair poem of *Amphigouri*, is, for instance, one of the most deliciously fanciful creations in the language, and many of his smaller pieces have the point and sparkle of *Carw's and Suckling's*. A more popular poet than either of those just mentioned was William Warner, an Attorney of the Common Pleas, who was born about the year 1558, and who died in 1609. In 1609, he published a poem of ten thousand verses, called *Albion's England*. It ran through six editions in sixteen years, and died out of the memory of mankind in 1812. The poem is a metrical history of the Southern portion of the island, beginning at the deluge, and ending with the reign of James I. The merit of Warner is that of a story-teller, and he is much less of a poet than either of the two poets just mentioned. The work is a strange mixture of hard common sense and tragic fact and fable, extending in parts, with little power of imagination or grace of language, but possessing the great popular excellence of describing persons and incidents in the fewest and simplest words. He has some occasional touches of nature, which almost rival the old ballads for directness and intensity of feeling. It is a rapid translation from Warner, the poet of the popular, to Donne, the poet of the metaphysicians. John Donne was one of the strangest of versifiers, sermonizers, and men. He was a son of a wealthy London merchant, and was born in 1573. At the age of eleven he was sufficiently advanced in his studies to enter the University of Oxford, where he remained three years. He was then transferred to Cambridge. At the age of seventeen he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn to study the law. His relations were abandoned the law in order to assist between the *Reformation* of the points in Churches. After having exhausted, in a year's time, this controversy, he spent several years in travelling in Italy and Spain. On his return, he was made chief secretary of Lord Chancellor Ellesmere, an office which he held four years. Most of his secular poetry was probably written during the period between his twentieth and thirtieth year; an insatiable intellectual curiosity seems up to this time to have been his leading characteristic, and as this led him to all kinds of literature for mental nutriment, his faculties in their formation were inlaid with the oddest varieties of opinions and conclusions. With vast learning, with a subtle and penetrating intellect, with a fancy singularly fruitful and ingenious, he still contrived to disconnect his learning from knowledge, his intellect from reason, and his fancy from beauty. His poems, or rather his metrical poems, are obscure in thought, rugged in verification, full of conceits, but they exhibit a power of intellect, both analytical and analogical, competent at once to separate the minutest and connect the remotest ideas. In the case of Donne, this power is perverted to the production of what is obscure or unnatural, and his muse is as hostile to us as to beauty. The intention is not to idealize what is true, but to display the writer's skill and art in giving a show of reason to what is false. The effect of this on his moral character was pernicious; a subtle intellectual skepticism resulted from this perversion of his intellect. His amatory poems are characterized by a cold, hard, low, intellectual sensuality, worse than the worse impurity of his contemporaries, because it has no excuse in passion for its violations of decency. Donne fell in love with a niece of Lady Ellesmere, the daughter of Sir George More; he induced her to consent to a private marriage, against the wishes and without the knowledge of her father. Sir George, an arrogant, avaricious, and passionate brute, was so enraged at the match that he did not rest until he had made Lord Ellesmere disinherit Donne from his service, and until he had placed his son-in-law in prison. Though Sir George became reconciled to Donne, yet he refused to contribute at all to the maintenance of his daughter, and the poet was reduced to utter poverty. Sir Francis Wolley, a kinsman of Lord Ellesmere, seeing the distress of Donne, took him and his wife into his own house, and here they resided till the death of his benefactor. During this residence with Sir Francis, Donne was able to derive a benefit by Dr. Morton, then Dean of Gloucester, but he declined to enter the Church, from a feeling of spiritual untidiness. After the death of his patron, his father-in-law allowed him but £80 a year for the support of his family; sickness and affliction and comparative poverty came to awake him from his dream of selfish intellectualism and reveal him to himself. The wretched mood of self-dignity and disgust with existence which followed, we may trace Donne's gradual emancipation from his haunting sins; his theological studies and meditations were now probably directed more to the building up of character and less to the pandering to his gluttonous intellectuality. King James, amazed at Donne's opulence in what was then called learning, insisted on his entering the Church, and after much

hesitation, Donne yielded to the royal command. He was successfully made Chaplain to the Ordinary. Lecturer at Lincoln's Inn, Dean of St. Paul's, and was soon recognized as one of the ablest and most eloquent preachers of his time. The profession he had adopted with such self-distrust, he came to love with such fervor that his expressed wish was to die in the pulpit, or in consequence of his labor there. This last wish was granted in 1631, in his fifty-eighth year. Donne's published sermons are in form nearly as antique as his poems, though they are characterized by profounder knowledge of heart and mind, in what was called taste, he was absolutely deficient. His sermons are a curious mosaic of quaintness, quotation, wisdom, purity, subtlety, and ecstasy. A poet as intellectual as Donne, but whose intelligence was united to more masculine and efficiency, was John Donne. He was born in 1570, and was educated for the law. By reason of some quarrel he was expelled from the society of the Middle Temple in 1598; a year after, he produced his poem on the *Immortality of the Soul*; he was soon restored to his profession, held high offices in Ireland, and in 1626 was appointed Chief Justice of England, but died before he was sworn in. His fame as a poet rests on two works—one on *Donny*, and the other on the *Immortality of the Soul*. In the former poem, the premises are fanciful; in the latter they are real; in both the reasoning is equally exact. It is curious to observe the advantage which Donne holds over his materialistic opponents, from the circumstance that while his logical understanding is as well furnished as theirs, it reposes on central ideas and deep experiences, which they either want or ignore. The next poet to be mentioned was a link of connection between the age of Elizabeth and Cromwell, a contemporary equally of Shakespeare and Milton—Joseph Hall. He was born in 1574, was educated at Cambridge, and in 1607, at the age of twenty-three, published his satires. He was presented with a living by Sir Robert Drury; he rose gradually to preferment, was made Bishop of Exeter in 1627, and in 1641 was translated to the See of Norwich. In 1648 he was deprived of his palace and revenue by the Parliamentary Committee of Sequestration, and in 1656 he was in his eighty-second year. If we reject the claim of Gauding to precedence, Hall was the earliest satirist that English literature can boast, and he had two qualifications for his task, penetrating observation and unshrinking courage. The follies and vices, the manners, prejudices, delusions, and crimes of his time, form the materials of his satires, and these he laughs at or lashes as the subject matter provokes his contempt or indignation. Next to be noticed is Sir Henry Wotton, one of the most accomplished and enlightened minds of the age, though he has left few records of it in literature. He was born in 1576, and was educated at Oxford; leaving the University, he travelled in Germany and Italy for nine years; on his return he entered the service of the Earl of Essex, and on the discovery of the Earl's treason, escaped to the Continent. While in Italy he rendered a service to the Scottish King, and James, on his accession to the English throne, knighted him and sent him as ambassador to Venice. He remained abroad more than twenty years, and on his return was made Provost of Eton College. He died in 1639, in his seventy-first year. Wotton was one of the most sagacious diplomatists that England has ever sent abroad—chivalrous, loyal, and true. As a poet, he is universally known by one exquisite little poem, *The Character of a Happy Life*, a poem which is in all hymn books. The general drift of his poetry is to expose the hollowiness of all the objects to which as a statesman and courtier, his own life was devoted. But, excellent of its kind as Wotton's poetry is, it is not equal to that living poem, his life. He was one of those men who are not so much makers of poems as subjects about whom poems are made. The last poet now to be mentioned, George Herbert, was one in whom the quaintness of the time found its most fanciful embodiment. He began life as a courtier, but suddenly changed his whole course of thought and life, and became a clergyman, and is known to posterity only as a high-toned mystic. He was a poet of the highest order, a deeply religious and intensely thoughtful man, sincere at heart, but strange, far-fetched, and severely crotchety in utterance. Yet every one feels that his quaintness, his uncouth metaphors and comparisons, his singular phraseology, his holy characters and pious riddles, his general disposition to represent the divine through the exterior guise of the odd, are vitally connected with that essential beauty and sweetness of soul which give his poems their wild flavor and fragrance.—*Boston Courier*.

## Contents of Magazines.

Blackwood's Magazine, for April: A Cruise in Japanese Waters, Part 4; The Luck of Ladydame, Part 2; A Winter Journey; The Turks in Kalafat, 1854, Part 2; Christianity in India: A Dismissing View of Money and the Franchise; Adam Bede: The Cry for Reform; The New Reform Bill. The Journal of the Institute of Actuaries, and Assurance and Life Contingency Calculation, Part 2; The System of Dependent Risks; Mr. Day—On the Determination of the Rates of Premium for Assuring Against Issue; Mr. Miller—On Fire Assurance, "Specie" and "Average"; Mr. Christie—On the Settlement of Losses by Fire under Specific and Average Policies, Separate and Combined; Mr. Samuel Pown—On the Plan, Objects, and Progress of the International Association for obtaining a Uniform Decimal System of Measures, Weights, and Coins; Foreign Intelligence; Correspondence; Institute of Actuaries, etc. The Eclectic, for April: Carey, Marshall, and Ward; Popular Astronomy; In the March Bunch; High Water Mark, Part 3; By P. H. Goss, Esq.; Lay Sermons—No. 1; Town and Forest, Part 3; By the author of "Mary Powell"; The Kingdom of Flowers; Our Public; Arctic Explorations; Naples; The Reform Debate; Brief Notices of Recent Books. London University Magazine. New Series. No. 1, for April: Introductory Address; Herodotus; Yeomanry of England; Lucubrations on Lunches; Prof. Key on the University Examinations; The Andrews' Scholarships; Parliamentary Representation; University Building; Convocation; Provincial Examinations. Titan, for April: A Strange Life; Thordale; Getting On; By the author of "Behind the Scenes in Paris"; Chapter 9: Something which makes William Jones rub his knee with a vengeance. Chapter 10: Mr. Crispin does his duty. Chapter 11: Inside one of our "Noble Institutions"; Handsome People; An April Legend; By Victor Hugo; The Sinner's Life; Marriage Under Difficulties; Art and Science Abroad; Sleeping-Room Troubles—Moody Settled; The House of Commons. The Magazine, for April: Sword and Gown; The author of "Guy Livingstone"—Part 1; On the Two Bladders of Humanity; Being Thomas; Paddy Mallicky and Paddy Delaney; Holmby Hall; A Tale of Old Northamptonshire. By G. J. W. The author of "Digby Grand"—Part 4; The Court of Rome a Hundred Years Ago; Professional Secularism; By Shirley; Hints for Vagabonds. One of Themselfs—Connemara; Russian Dinners; Excursions in the Eastern Pyrenees; William John Woodcock—In Memoriam; Recent Writers on Reform. The Westminster Review, for April: Yorkshire; The Moral of Trade; Wolmar and Its Celebrities; The Drama in Paris; The Italian Question; Adam Bede; De Lammenda; His Life and Writings; England's Political Position in Europe. New Quarterly Review, for April: Debate upon Reform Bill; Austro-Italian Question; Woodcock Inquiry; Mason's Life of Milton; Wilkinson on Oler; Indian Sketches; Douglas Jerrold; The New Books of the Quarter; John Willey.

grave's Normandy and England; Riled Gums and Modern Tactics; Major; Riled Gums; Austria, France, and Italy. The Christian Examiner, for May: The Puritan, or Fire Worshipper; Chateaubriand; The History and Doctrine of the Devil; The Pioneer Bishop; Minister of the Mill; Bunce on Channing; Review of Current Literature; Library Intelligence, etc. The Bankers' Magazine and Statistical Register, for May. Edited by J. Smith. New Views of the Currency. By Charles H. Carroll, of Boston; The Panama Railroad—American Trade to the Southern Pacific; Iowa County Bonds—Remarks on Recent Issues; Principles of Banking, Currency, and Finance; Banking—Its Utility and Economy. By Thomas Hanks, late Governor of the Bank of England; Rates of Discount in England, 1828-1867; The Clearing-House System; Debt, Statistics; Canadian Finances During the Years 1854-55; Fluctuations in Stocks, 1856-58; Foreign Buses; Miscellaneous; Changes Among Private Banks in the United States and Europe; Bank Buses; Notes on the Money Market and Stock Market of New York, for the Month of April.

## The Saturday Press Book-List.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 1869.

## NEW BOOKS.

## AMERICAN.

RELIGIOUS, THEOLOGICAL, ETC. The Ministry of Life. By Maria Louisa Chaceworth, author of "Ministering Children," etc., etc. 12mo. pp. 465. 90 cents. New York: Carleton & Porter. Historical Tales for Young Protestants. 12mo. pp. 302. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. Spenser's Sermons. Fifth Series. Illustrated with a Steel Portrait of the Rev. C. H. Spenser Preaching in the Surrey Music Hall. 1 vol., 12mo. \$1. New York: Sheldon & Co. The Condition, Prospects, and Duties of the American People. A Sermon Delivered on Fast Day, at Church Green, Boston. By the Rev. Orville Dewey. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. The Proxy Bill and the Tract Society. Mr. Jay's reply to the attacks upon the Bill, by the "Christian Intelligencer," and "Journal of Commerce." New York: Geo. Lockwood & Son. A Commentary, Critical and Practical, on the Gospel of Luke. By Prof. John J. Owen, of this city. 1 vol., 12mo. pp. 400. \$1. New York: Leavitt & Allen. Complete Works of Rev. John M. Mason, D.D. 4 vols., post 8vo. \$6. New York: Charles Scribner. Parochial Sermons. Sermons for some of the Principal Festivals and Fasts of the Church, and on Christian Doctrine and Duty. Preached at the Church of the Advent, Boston, Massachusetts. By the Right Rev. Horatio Southgate, D.D., late Rector of the Parish. 12mo. \$1. New York: Daniel Dana, Jr. "The Good News of God." By the Rev. Charles Kingsley. New York: Burt, Hutchinson & Co. The Greek New Testament. Revised and Edited by Cardinal Mai. Reprinted from the Ancient Vatican MS. 1 vol., 8vo. \$3. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Councils on Spiritualism. By a Connecticut Pastor. Pamphlet, pp. 27. New York: M. W. Dodd. 1859. MEDICAL, ETC. The Uremic Convulsions of Pregnancy, Parturition, and Childbed. By Dr. Carl R. Wasm, Professor of Midwifery, Vienna. Translated from the German, with notes. By J. Matthews Duncan, F.R.C.P.E. Lecturer on Midwifery, etc. 12mo. pp. 282. New York: S. S. & W. Wood. Sight and Hearing: How Preserved and How Lost. By J. H. Clark, M.D. 1 vol., 12mo. Illustrated. \$1.25. New and Revised Edition. New York: Charles Scribner. Treatise on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. By T. H. Tanner, M.D., F.R.S., Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, late Physician to the Hospital for Women, etc., etc. 12mo. cloth. \$1. Philadelphia: Lippincott & Co. BIOGRAPHICAL, ETC. Life of George Washington. By George Washington. Edited by William B. Ewald. D.D. 12mo. pp. 400. \$1. New York: Carleton & Porter. The Life of Mahomet. By Edward Gibbon. With Notes by Dean Milman and Dr. William Smith, with a new edition of the text, cloth, 50c. New York: Delaney & Procter. The Life of James Watt; with Selections from his Correspondence. By James Patrick Muirhead, M.A. With Illustrations. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth. \$1.25. New York: D. Appleton & Co. My Early Days. By Ellen W. Farnham. Price \$1.25. New York: Burt, Hutchinson & Co. Life of St. Columba; with some account of his sayings, moral and prophetic, extracted from Irish Parchments, and translated by the Rev. Mr. Tule. 12mo. pp. 100. New York: Burt, Hutchinson & Co. TRAVELS, ETC. A Journal of Five Years in Asia, Africa, and Europe; comprising Visits during 1851, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, to the Tapanan, Iron Mines, The "Seven Churches," Plain of Ur, the Tigris, the Euphrates, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Straits of Suez, with the scenes of the recent military (Benares, Agra, Cawnpore, Lucknow, Delhi, etc.), Calcutta, Peshawar, The Khyber Pass to Afghanistan, Java, and Sumatra. By John B. Ireland. With nearly one hundred illustrations, from sketches made on the spot, by the author. 8vo. pp. 581. New York: S. A. Rollo & Co. HOLLYWOOD HALL; A Tale of 1774. By James Grant, author of "The Romance of War," "Alde de Camp," "The Romance of War," etc., etc. 12mo. pp. 497. New York: Routledge, Warren & Routledge. Ben Bywater's Word. By the author of "The Best of Saddleby." 1 vol., 12mo. 50c. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Theory: His Temptations. A Sketch. By H. P. Lovell. Pamphlet, pp. 63. Albany: P. L. Gillette's News Office. ART. Beauties of Ruskin. New issue, with a Steel Portrait of Ruskin, copied from a London Engraving. 1 vol., 12mo. \$1.25. New York: J. B. Lippincott & Co. The Works of Josephus. With a Life written by himself. Translated from the original Greek, including explanatory notes and observations, by William Whiston, A.M. 4 vols., 8vo. pp. 186, fine paper. New York: Sheldon & Co. LEGAL. Supplement to the Revised Statutes; being the General Laws of Massachusetts, Passed at the Session of 1867. Prepared and Edited by Horace Gray, Jr., and Walter Dwight. 8vo. pp. 186, fine paper. Vol. 2, No. 7. Boston: H. W. Dutton & Co. MISCELLANEOUS. A Practical Treatise on the Fivefold Holy-Roy. By L. L. Langworth, with an Introduction by Rev. Robert Hall, D.D. Third edition, revised and illustrated with seventy-two engravings. 12mo. pp. 405. New York: A. O. Moore & Co., Agricultural Publishers, 180 Fulton street. Readings for Young Men, Merchants, and Men of Business. Compiled from the London Engraving. 12mo. pp. 172. Boston and Cambridge: James Munroe & Co. Popular Geology: A Series of Lectures and Notes the Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh. With Descriptive Notes, and a Geographical Appendix. By Hugh Miller. With an Introductory Lecture on the Progress of Geological Science within the last two years. By Mrs. Miller. 12mo. pp. 423. Boston: Gould & Lincoln. Napoleonic Ideas—The Moral Napoleonicism. By the Emperor. 12mo. pp. 154. 50c. The Iron Manufacture's Guide to the Furnaces, Puddling, and Rolling Mills of the United States. To which is appended a History of the Manufacture of Iron, a Summary of the Statistics of the American Production of Iron, and a Geological Discussion of the Iron of the United States. By J. P. 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pit, the Senate, and the Bar. By Prof. M. Bantlin. With Additional Notes and Illustrations. 1 vol., 12mo. \$1. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

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